

LAKE CHAUTAUQUA

HABITAT REHABILITATION AND ENHANCEMENT PROJECT

La Grange Pool
Illinois Waterway River Miles
124.0 - 129.5

Mason County, Illinois
Rock Island District

RESOURCE PROBLEM:

Both Upper and Lower Lake Chautauqua are important links in the chain of resting, feeding, and wintering areas for migratory waterfowl and certain endangered species (the bald eagle and peregrine falcon) along the Mississippi Flyway. Sediments introduced to the lakes by Illinois Waterway flood events have decreased depths and degraded local water quality. The soft, flocculent lake bottoms are not conducive to the establishment of submergent and emergent vegetation necessary to support fish and waterfowl populations.

PROJECT FEATURES:

- * Construct a 41,000-gpm pump station designed to service the Upper and Lower Lakes;
- * Operate one stop log structure (Lower Lake);
- * Replace existing radial gate structure (Upper Lake);
- * Raise the elevation of the existing cross dike and Upper Lake perimeter levee;
- * Excavate 7,500 feet of drainage channels (Lower Lake) to an average depth of 10 feet and bottom width of 35 feet;
- * Construct a submerged side channel entrance closure structure; and
- * Construct boat ramp and access road for management access to Upper Lake.

PROJECT OUTPUTS:

The project will increase the availability of reliable waterfowl and fish habitat at the Lake Chautauqua National Wildlife Refuge. Increased Upper Lake water control capability will allow for periodic dewatering. Subsequent lakebed consolidation will

result in increased submergent vegetation production to the benefit of diving ducks and fish species such as yellow perch and largemouth bass. Improved Lower Lake water control will increase the acreage of moist soil plants available to dabbling ducks.

FINANCIAL DATA:

General design costs were \$1,700,000, and construction costs are estimated at \$11,800,000. Annual costs for operation, maintenance, and repair are estimated at \$30,000 and will be the responsibility of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Illinois Department of Natural Resources is the non-Federal project sponsor.

STATUS:

The construction was substantially complete in November 1998. A dedication ceremony was held July 7, 1999. USFWS is operating and managing the site.

The Corps of Engineers is currently designing a project to improve drainage in the lower lake to reduce bird mortality from botulism outbreaks. The estimated cost for the improved drainage channel is \$500,000.

Revised 4/01